



Steps in the Environmental Study Process

A description of each step of the environmental study process and the Hyampom project status follows.

Send Notice of Intent to Study

A notice of intent to study the proposed project was mailed to government agencies, the public and local residents in August 2002.

Conduct Public Involvement

This is an on-going process. Public meetings were held in August and November 2002. Public meetings will be held again in the fall of 2003, and a public hearing in 2004. There will be another newsletter in 2004.

Evaluate Effects

Currently, the FHWA is evaluating social, economic, and environmental effects of the project and proposed alternatives. Field studies began in the summer of 2002, and will continue this year.

Prepare an Environmental Assessment

An Environmental Assessment (EA) is a document that describes the project purpose and need, the environmental effects, and as needed, the mitigation of those effects.

Review of and Comment on the EA

Copies of the EA will be made available to the public and all agencies involved. A public hearing will be conducted to present the findings of the EA and receive comments from the public.

Prepare the Response to Comments

Public comments will be addressed in the EA. Following this will be a determination of whether the project will require a Findings of No Significant Impacts (FONSI) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A FONSI will be issued if the FHWA determines the project will not have significant environmental impacts. Conversely, an EIS will be prepared if the FHWA determines that the project is likely to have significant adverse impacts.

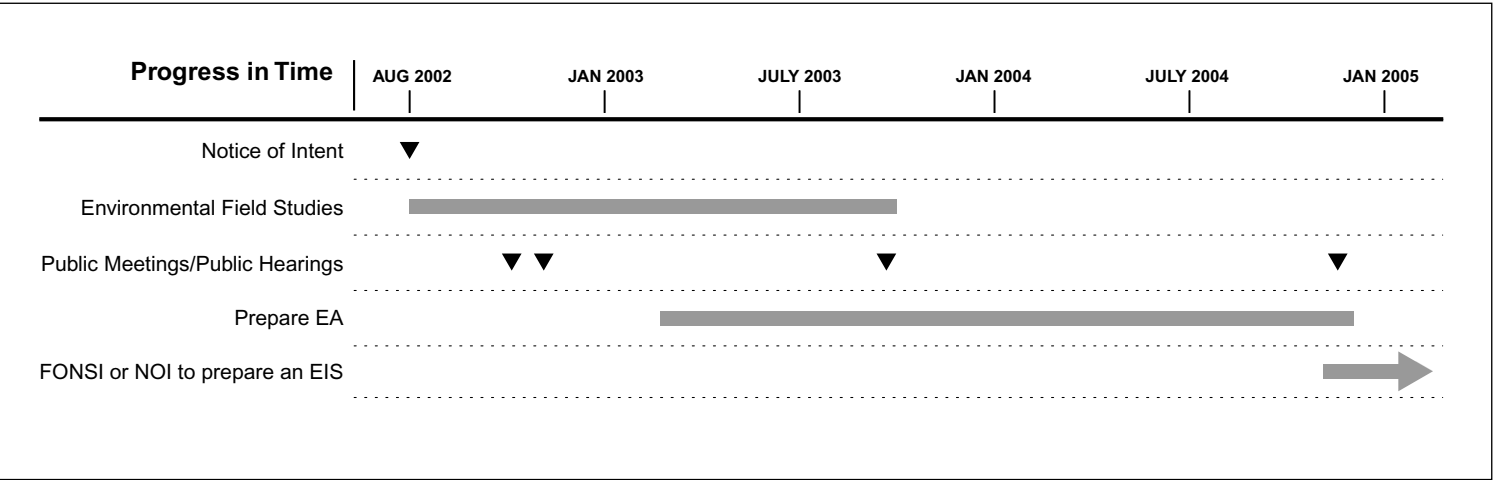
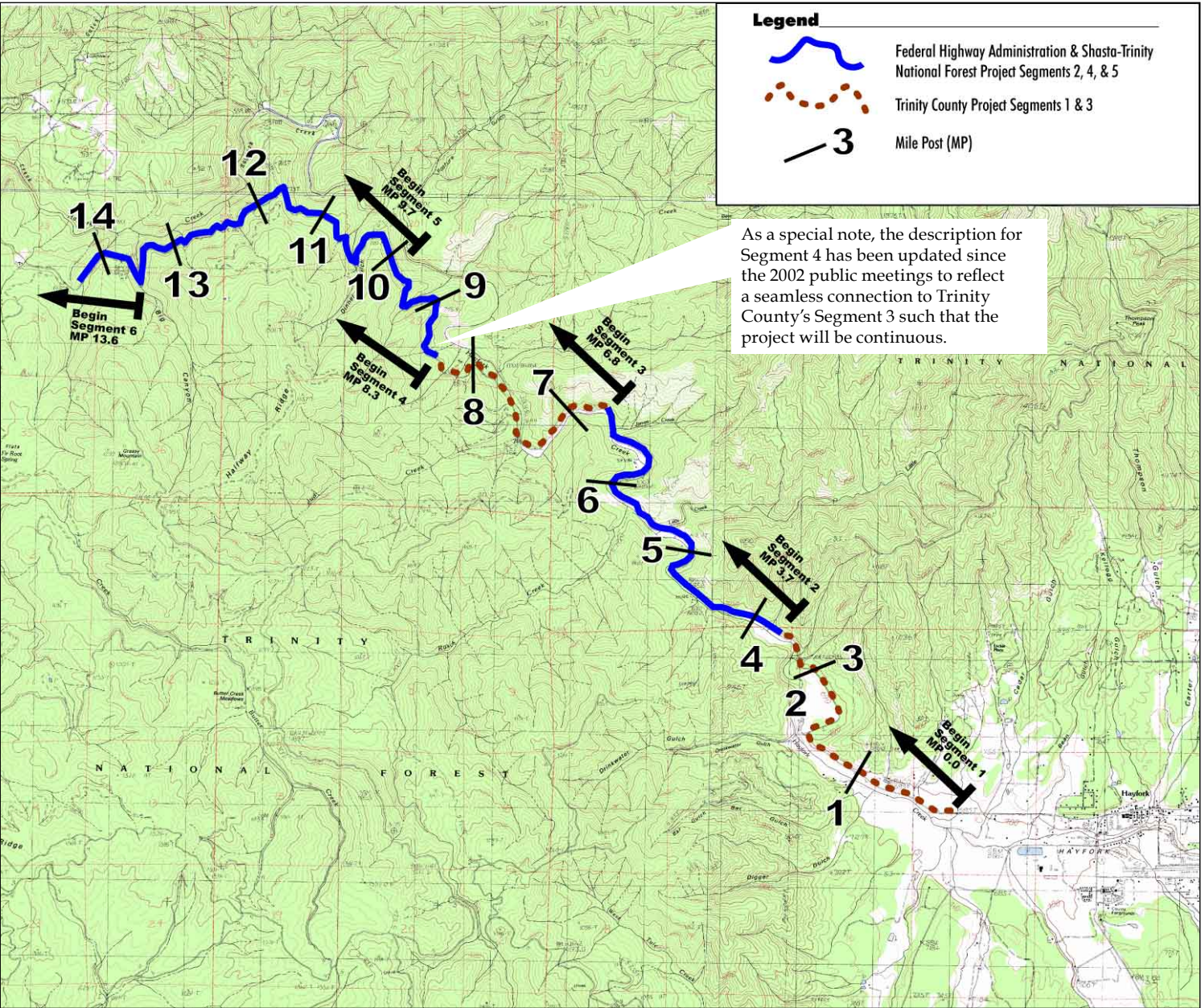
Agencies that will be consulted include:

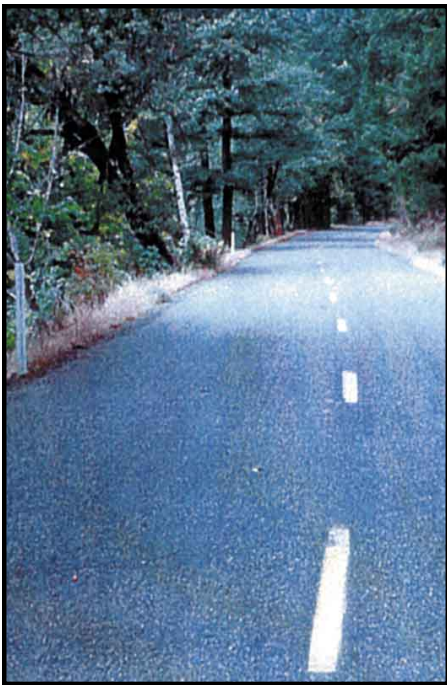
U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries), California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), U.S. Forest Service-Shasta-Trinity National Forest, Trinity County, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO).

Environmental Studies to be Conducted

The purpose of the Environmental Assessment is to determine whether environmental impacts may result from the proposed project and how those impacts can be mitigated. The following are other examples of studies that will be performed in order to assess environmental consequences:

- A two-year biological study is underway to determine if there are any threatened, rare, endangered, or sensitive species in the project vicinity that may be affected.
- Social and economic conditions will be studied to determine who might be affected and what economic impacts might be expected.
- Water resources evaluations will include floodplains analysis, water quality issues and recommendations for erosion and sediment control.
- Land use impacts and consistency with existing planning documents will be determined.
- Cultural and historic resources will be surveying the entire project area.
- Noise impacts will be modeled for both construction noise and traffic noise on nearby sensitive land uses.
- Wetlands assessment will identify existing wetlands, and whether they will be impacted.
- Visual resource analysis will be conducted using before and after project photo simulations.
- A construction impacts study will evaluate construction period, construction practices and resulting impacts to resources mentioned above.





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Stay Tuned:

A Fall 2003 public meeting will be announced this summer. The purpose of the meeting will be to provide the public with a project update.

Stay Informed:

Visit the Project Web site for updates as new information becomes available: www.cflhd.gov/projects/ca/hyampomRoad/index.cfm or please feel free to send comments or questions to:

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HYAMPOM ROAD PROJECT
UPDATE

California Forest Highway 114, Hyampom Road
Shasta-Trinity National Forest
Trinity County, California

Spring 2003

Hyampom Road Project

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Trinity County, in conjunction with the Forest Service, are developing preliminary engineering studies and conducting an environmental assessment of the Hyampom Road project. The FHWA is studying Segments 2, 4, and 5 and Trinity County is studying Segments 1 and 3 of Hyampom Road (see map on next page). Together, preliminary engineering and environmental analyses are being conducted on Hyampom Road from Hayfork to mile post 13.6.

With the valuable input from the public and concerned residents, the FHWA design team is developing a preliminary roadway design for Segments 2, 4, and 5 that is environmentally sensitive while still meeting the following project purposes:

- Develop a two-lane roadway to Hyampom
- Provide a consistent-width roadway alignment to enhance the safety for current and future traffic
- Ensure mobility for emergency response, school buses, postal service and other delivery vehicles
- Reduce roadway maintenance concerns

Trinity County has already completed an environmental study for Segment 1 and will hold a Public Hearing on their Final EIR for Segment 3 in Weaverville on June 5th at 7:00 pm. On June 17th at 1:30 pm the Trinity County Board of Supervisors is scheduled to discuss and take action. For more information on the segments that the County is undertaking, contact Janice Smith, Trinity County Environmental Specialist at (530)623-1365.

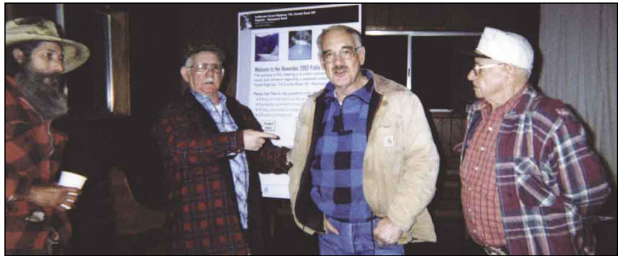


TRINITY COUNTY



FHWA Visited Hayfork and Hyampom to Gather Your Input

The FHWA is listening to your comments. Early in the process, your comments led



to public meetings in both Hayfork and Hyampom. Your comments will continue to be taken into account at each step of the project environmental study process. We will be holding periodic public meetings to keep you informed as new information becomes available. The following is a sample of comments received thus far:

"Where can we get information as the project goes along?"

"No more comments, just fix the road."

"Hyampom Road 'as is' contributes to the character of Hyampom and the natural beauty of the area."



"The road needs to be safe for the school bus."

"Hyampom community would like to receive computer generations of the proposed roadway project."

"We are concerned about protecting the environment, most particularly the watershed of the South Fork of the Trinity River."

"The construction period will greatly inconvenience the residents, delivery and postal service to Hyampom."